



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CANBERRA

Reference No. 6.35

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UNEMPLOYMENT, AUGUST 1976
PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES

MAIN FEATURES

- In August 1976 the estimated number of unemployed persons was 261,500 (4.3 per cent of the estimated labour force), 13,900 more than in May 1976. The figure includes persons looking for part-time work as well as those looking for full-time work.
- There were 145,100 unemployed males (3.7 per cent of the male labour force) and 116,400 unemployed females (5.5 per cent of the female labour force).
- Of persons in the labour force aged 15-19 years about one in eight was unemployed (12.6 per cent). The unemployment rate for persons aged 20 years and over was 3.2 per cent.

NOTE. Seasonally adjusted estimates shown in this statement are based on a revised method of seasonal adjustment (see paragraphs 6 to 8 of the explanatory notes).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This statement contains preliminary unemployment estimates for Australia derived from the quarterly population survey. More detailed estimates are published each quarter in *The Labour Force (Preliminary)* (Reference No. 6.32) and *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

The population survey

2. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained in February, May, August and November from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. Interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that in each of the months to which the survey relates, there are four survey weeks, chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months.

Definition

3. For purposes of the survey, unemployed persons are defined as all civilians aged 15 years and over who either:

- (a) during the survey week did not work and did not have a job, but could have taken one had it been available, and had been looking for full-time or part-time work in the four weeks up to and including the survey week (including persons who would have been prevented from taking a job in the survey week by their own temporary illness or injury, or by their having made arrangements to start after the survey week in a new job in which they would have preferred to start in the survey week) or
- (b) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been temporarily stood down without pay for four weeks or less (including the whole of the survey week).

4. Unemployed persons therefore comprise those looking for full-time work, those looking for part-time work and those temporarily laid off from either full-time or part-time jobs. This definition of unemployed persons conforms closely to that recommended by the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1954).

Reliability of the estimates

5. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. There are about two chances in three that the differences would be less than 4,000 for total unemployed males, less than 3,500 for total unemployed females and less than 5,000 for total unemployed persons, and about nineteen chances in twenty that they would be less than twice these figures. Further details about the survey and the reliability of the estimates will be found in the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

Seasonal adjustment

6. In the May 1976 and previous issues of this statement and other labour force publications, mention has been made of the problems in seasonally adjusting numbers unemployed due to the change in the proportional relationship of the amplitude of the seasonal variations to the level of the quarterly series.

7. An estimate of the effect of the change in the relationship between the amplitude of the seasonal variations and the level of the quarterly series has now been made. Prior adjustment factors derived from this estimate have been used in the X-11 program to obtain

improved seasonal adjustment factors. The estimate of the new relationship is necessarily based only on experience since late 1974. Although the problems in satisfactorily seasonally adjusting the quarterly series are less than would be the case with a monthly series, it would be claiming too much to suggest that the problems encountered previously have now been wholly overcome. However, the revised figures will provide a better seasonal adjustment than that provided previously.

8. The seasonal adjustment factors have been revised for both the "persons aged 15-19 years looking for their first job" and the "remainder" series. This statement therefore includes revised seasonally adjusted estimates for total unemployed and total excluding persons aged 15-19 years looking for their first job.

9. As from the May 1976 issue of this statement the unemployment estimates derived from the population survey have been based on a revised definition. See *The Labour Force, May 1976 (Preliminary)* (Reference No. 6.32), pages 1 and 2, paragraphs 6 to 12 for details. Estimates of unemployment on the revised basis have a different seasonal pattern from those on the old basis. Because only five quarterly figures on the revised basis were available at the time the seasonal adjustment factors were calculated it has been necessary to make special estimates for the seasonally adjusted series.

Comparability with Commonwealth Employment Service figures

10. The sample estimates will differ from the number of persons registered with the Commonwealth

Employment Service (CES) as not employed, awaiting placement in full-time employment, for a number of reasons, including the following:

- . The survey estimates include persons looking for *part-time* work as well as those looking for *full-time* work
- . they exclude persons who did any work at all during the survey week, even though they may subsequently have become unemployed and registered with the CES or have done so little work as not to lose eligibility for unemployment benefit
- . they represent *averages over a period* (see paragraph 2), whereas the numbers registered with the CES refer to a particular day at the end of the month
- . they are subject to sampling variability (see paragraph 5)
- . they include some unemployed persons (particularly females) who do not register with the CES
- . they exclude any persons registered as unemployed who find jobs but do not notify the CES at once that they have done so.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in the table are due to rounding.

NOTE. *Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr Michael Salloom on 52 6503 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.*

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a) : AUSTRALIA

Month	Looking for		Aged 15-19 years		Aged 20 years and over ('000)	Total		Total excluding persons aged 15-19 years looking for first job		Per cent of labour force (b)			
	Full-time work ('000)	Part-time work ('000)	Looking for first job ('000)	Total ('000)		Original ('000)	Seasonally adjusted (c)(d) ('000)	Original ('000)	Seasonally adjusted (d) ('000)	Aged 15-19 years	Aged 20 years and over	Total	
												Original	Seasonally adjusted (d)
MALES													
1975 -							r		r				r
May	121.5	10.3	9.0	34.2	97.5	131.8	140.3	122.8	126.2	9.3	2.8	3.4	3.6
August	116.7	9.8	8.4	36.2	90.2	126.4	142.2	118.0	127.8	10.2	2.6	3.3	3.6
November (e)	127.9	11.0	12.2	43.0	96.0	139.0	141.0	126.8	130.1	12.2	2.7	3.6	3.6
1976 -													
February †	147.0	12.4	17.4	51.3	108.2	159.5	138.0	142.0	125.2	13.1	3.0	4.0	3.5
May	123.3	9.2	9.4	41.7	90.7	132.4	142.2	123.0	127.5	10.8	2.5	3.3	3.6
August (f)	136.8	8.3	12.1	43.2	101.9	145.1	165.0	133.0	144.4	11.4	2.9	3.7	4.2
FEMALES													
1975 -							r		r				r
May	81.4	39.4	13.8	41.9	78.8	120.7	127.1	106.9	109.9	12.5	4.6	5.9	6.1
August	81.7	35.6	15.9	45.4	72.0	117.4	131.7	101.5	110.6	13.8	4.2	5.7	6.3
November (e)	89.9	45.6	19.3	49.3	86.2	135.5	136.8	116.2	119.6	14.9	4.7	6.3	6.4
1976 -													
February †	96.0	49.1	22.7	56.8	88.3	145.0	126.4	122.3	107.4	16.2	4.9	6.7	5.9
May	79.1	36.0	14.8	45.7	69.4	115.1	122.2	100.4	103.8	13.6	3.9	5.4	5.7
August (f)	84.5	31.9	14.0	46.5	69.9	116.4	130.5	102.5	112.1	14.0	3.9	5.5	6.0
PERSONS													
1975 -							r		r				r
May	202.9	49.7	22.8	76.2	176.4	252.5	266.5	229.7	235.4	10.9	3.4	4.2	4.5
August	198.4	45.4	24.3	81.6	162.2	243.8	274.1	219.5	238.7	11.9	3.1	4.1	4.6
November (e)	217.8	56.6	31.5	92.3	182.2	274.5	279.2	243.1	250.6	13.5	3.4	4.5	4.6
1976 -													
February †	243.0	61.6	40.1	108.1	196.5	304.5	263.2	264.3	232.0	14.6	3.7	5.0	4.3
May	202.4	45.2	24.2	87.4	160.1	247.6	263.8	223.4	231.1	12.1	3.0	4.1	4.3
August (f)	221.3	40.2	26.1	89.7	171.8	261.5	294.5	235.5	256.7	12.6	3.2	4.3	4.8

(a) Aged 15 years and over. For definition, see paragraph 3. (b) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group. (c) The method used in seasonally adjusting estimates for total unemployed persons is to adjust estimates for unemployed persons aged 15 to 19 years looking for their first job and estimates for the remainder of unemployed persons separately and to add the two figures to obtain total estimates for unemployed persons. Estimates for unemployed males and females are treated similarly. (d) Revised following re-analysis of the series. See paragraphs 6 to 9. (e) The sample size was reduced for the November 1975 survey. Consequently the standard errors for estimates from that survey are larger than usual. For details see the November 1975 issue of *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20). (f) Preliminary estimates, subject to revision. r - revised.

† Affected by the deferral of the interviewing period by one week. It is estimated that had interviewing taken place in the normal period, the seasonally adjusted figure for total unemployed persons would have been higher by some 5,000 to 10,000.